

will be eliminated. School food programs will be reduced by \$309 million. The Committee on Agriculture is to be commended for taking the first step in the right direction.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have many more battles to fight for the hungry in America. The war goes on.

□ 1415

COSPONSOR REGULATORY A-TO-Z BILL

(Mr. LATHAM asked was given permission to address the house for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation requiring each committee of the House to report a comprehensive regulatory relief plan during this session of Congress.

We are currently in the process of considering the Contract With America's long-overdue regulatory relief and reform provisions.

However, we need a vehicle for addressing existing excessive regulations that are costing our States, cities, and businesses hundreds of billions of dollars. This bill will provide that vehicle, free of the arbitrary schedules of reauthorization bills.

Under this proposal, every Member of the House would have the opportunity to offer amendments to their committees' regulatory package in order to streamline or reduce the costs of existing regulations, eliminate or reduce unfunded Federal mandates, and apply cost-benefit analysis review to existing regulations.

In the tradition of openness of the A-to-Z spending cut plan, I call this bill the regulatory A-to-Z bill. I hope all Members will join me as a cosponsor of this comprehensive regulatory reform bill.

AS THE ROMANS DID

(Mr. FORBES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, Rome was not built in a day and the Washington bureaucracy will not be torn down in 100 days. While the President of the United States goes to foreign soil to criticize Members of this body, the Republican majority is making progress. We are working hard, we are keeping our promises and starting to change the way that Washington operates.

This week we continue to change the federal regulatory process.

For years, our small business sector has cried for an end to stifling regulations and arcane rules that hurt economic growth and kill jobs. We have heard those cries and we will deliver relief. We will create jobs and help the American people.

Next month we will continue to change Washington. We will end the cruel cycle of dependence and hopelessness

by comprehensively reforming our welfare system.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT OF 1995

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 96 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 96

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1022) to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consideration of costs and benefits in major rules, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours equally divided among and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority members of the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule for a period not to exceed ten hours and shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). The gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSEN], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 96 is a modified open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1022, the Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act of 1995. The purpose of this legislation is to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consideration of costs and benefits in major rules.

In addition to the 1 hour of debate on this rule, the rule provides for 2 hours of general debate, with 1 hour equally divided between and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Commerce Committee, and 1 hour equally divided between and con-

trolled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Science Committee.

After general debate is completed, the bill will be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule, for a period of time not to exceed 10 hours. I would like to emphasize that any Member will have the opportunity to offer an amendment of the bill under the 5-minute rule. I believe this is a fair process, in that, again, it will allow any Member with a suggestion for improvement of this legislation, to bring it up for consideration by the full House in the form of an amendment.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 96 brings to the floor H.R. 1022, a bill which is the product of intense negotiations to reconcile the differences between bills marked up and reported out by the Committee on Science and the Committee on Commerce. Both committees had jurisdiction over title III of H.R. 9, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act, and I believe that this compromise legislation is a balanced and appropriate vehicle for floor consideration for purposes of amendment to achieve the goal of setting a comprehensive risk assessment policy for the Federal Government.

This legislation, the Risk Assessment and Cost-Benefit Act of 1995, consists of six major provisions. Title I deals with presenting the public, and Federal executive branch decisionmakers, with the most scientifically objective and unbiased information concerning the nature and magnitude of health, safety, and environmental risks in order to provide for sound regulatory decisions and public education. Title II requires Federal agencies to prepare information regarding costs and benefits for each major rule within a program designed to protect human health, safety, or the environment. Title III establishes peer review requirements for rules that are likely to increase annual costs by \$100 million and calls for the establishment of national peer-review panels to review agency practices concerning risk and cost assessments. Title IV sets up the applicable judicial review requirements. Title V requires each covered Federal agency to publish a plan concerning procedures for receiving and considering new information and revising risk assessments or rules where appropriate. And finally, title VI requires the President to issue biennial reports addressing risk reduction priorities among Federal regulatory programs designed to protect human health.

All too often, although well-intentioned, Federal regulatory costs are vastly out of proportion to the concerns that the regulations were meant to address.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1022 reforms the Federal regulatory process in a sound